

## **William Noland to Andrew Jackson, April 22, 1839, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.**

class=MsoNormal>WILLIAM NOLAND TO JACKSON. 1

1 Major Noland was commissioner of public buildings.

Washington, April 22, 1839.

. . . . The Treasury Building and the patent office are progressing rapidly and would have been completed this year, had Congress appropriated the money called for by the Architect. The Secretary of the Treasury with a part of his clerks moved into the New Treasury Building before the adjournment of Congress, and the greater part of the building will be occupied by heads of bureaus and their clerks, by the first of June. The building will disappoint its enemies and will be found to answer all the purposes for which it was intended. Reports were circulated, the year before last, to the great disparagement of the building; the representation was, that the walls had cracked, the arches were spreading and that the whole building would tumble to pieces; that the present site had not been fixed on by the president, 2 and that he had adopted no plan. The Committee on Public Buildings prevailed on the President to allow two architects of some celebrity from Philadelphia and Boston, to examine both buildings and report on the same. Their reports were unfavourable not only to the plan and material, but questioned the stability of the building. Congress however would not consent that the building should be pulled down; and now, many of those who voted to have it removed are convinced of their error, when they see there is not a crack from top to bottom. Indeed, it was only a few days ago, that I heard Mr. Strickland, one of the most distinguished architects in the United States, declare, that he had never seen a stronger building. one of the architects

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who was engaged about ten days in making his examination and preparing his report charged &dollar;1,738 for his services and the other &dollar;250. The latter was paid, but the president would not allow more than &dollar;500 to the other, which he refuses to receive. Congress too, agreed to pay the workmen and laborurs for loss time, during the suspension of the work, which amounted to nearly &dollar;8,000. . . .

2 A well-defined tradition says that Jackson himself selected the spot on which the building was to be erected.